

**Statement of the Honorable Frank R. Wolf of Virginia  
Extension of Remarks  
In support of H.R. 1722  
November 18, 2010**

Madam Speaker. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1722, the Telework Enhancement Act of 2010, and thank the gentleman for yielding.

I appreciate the tireless efforts of the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. Sarbanes, and was pleased to work with him to author this legislation. I also thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. Towns, and the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Lynch, for their work to advance this legislation, as well as our colleagues in the Senate who worked on the text of what we are considering today, including Senators Akaka, Voinovich, Lieberman, Collins, and Coburn.

This is good, bipartisan legislation, which was also strengthened in the House through the work of my colleague from Virginia, Mr. Wittman, and my colleague from West Virginia, Mrs. Capito.

My colleagues will detail why this legislation is important, that it is deficit neutral, that it strengthens our COOP, Continuation of Operations Plans, in the event of disasters such as a hurricane, like Katrina, or a massive snowstorm, like what occurred this past February, or in the event of an earthquake, such as the Loma Prieta, the World Series earthquake, or in the event of a terrorist attack. In all these instances, telework was vital in ensuring that our government continued to operate.

In their song *The Boxer*, Simon and Garfunkel said that “man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.” That, unfortunately, has been the case with this legislation.

Despite what you may hear, this is good legislation. Telework is good government policy.

This legislation is about doing more with less. Let me repeat- telework is about doing more with less. It is about adapting best practice procedures from the private sector that companies, such as IMB, use daily. It is about saving money. It is about reducing the size, the footprint, of the federal government. It is about forcing the federal government into the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

During the February snowstorm, telework allowed the federal government to recoup the \$30 million a day for each day that the government was shut down. Imagine how much would have been saved if more people were teleworking?

It was through my work with members, such as the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. Hoyer, that we forced the government to recognize the benefits of telework. When I was chairman of the Science-State-Justice and Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee, I inserted the language to mandate that agencies increase telework opportunities for eligible employees.

Why? Because agencies weren't following our directives, our intent. The intent of the Congress to make the government more efficient. And this is what is happening now- telework isn't being used to its fullest extent. And maybe that's because of a lack of information, or reluctant management, or a combination of both. This legislation will not fix all the problems that exist. But it will go a long way toward improvement.

Work is something you do, not someplace you go. There is no magic to strapping yourself in a metal box and driving, sometimes up to an hour and a half to our workplaces, and sitting in front of our computers all day.

Information accessed at workplaces can just as easily be accessed from computers in our living rooms. With the American family under attack, telework provides the opportunities for parents to spend more time with their families, and everyone to enjoy things they like to do.

I urge a yes vote on the Telework Enhancements Act of 2010.